

REMARKS

Claims 35-37, 44-46, 50, 53-63, 65-68, 75-79, 82-93, and 95 were previously pending, with claims 57-63 and 65 being withdrawn from consideration and claims 35 and 66 being independent claims. Claim 35 is amended, claim 53 is canceled, and independent claim 96 is added. As a result, claims 35-37, 44-46, 50, 54-63, 65-68, 75-79, 82-93, and 95-96 are pending for examination with claims 57-63 and 65 being withdrawn and claims 35, 66, and 96 being independent claims. No new matter is added.

Applicant submits that this amendment is proper under Rule 116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise new issues requiring further search or consideration; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary).

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's finding in the Office Action that claims 66-68, 75-79, 82-93, and 95 are allowed and that claims 53 and 54 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their base claim. Applicant has amended independent claim 35 to incorporate the features of claim 53, which is hereby canceled. Applicant also introduces new claim 96, which incorporates the features of independent claim 35 and dependent claim 54. Accordingly, each of claims 35-37, 44-46, 50, 54-56, 66-68, 75-79, 82-93, and 95-96 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

II. Withdrawn Claims

Applicant acknowledges that claims 57-63 and 65 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species. Applicant expects that upon allowance of generic independent claim 35, that withdrawn claims 57-63 and 65 depending there from will also be allowed.

CONCLUSION

As such, the claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that minor clarifying amendments to the claim would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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